

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-10, and 13-27 remain in the application. Claims 2-3 and 11-12 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 10, 26, and 27 were previously amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Olarig '680 (US Pat. No. 6,038,680) in view of Berney (US Pat. No. 6,299,068) and further in view of MacLaren (US Pub. No. 20020016942). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the claims as previously presented.

Claim 1, as previously presented, now recites as follows.

1. A method of visually locating a memory module, the method comprising:
receiving an electronic communication by circuitry on the memory module to be visually located;
activating a beacon state in the memory module due to receipt of the electronic communication; and
electronically turning on a beacon device on the memory module when the beacon state is activated to draw attention to that memory module,
wherein **the beacon device comprises an electromechanical device which visibly shows the beacon state when activated and that remains activated even in the absence of power.**

(Emphasis added.)

As shown above, claim 1 requires that "**the beacon device comprises an electromechanical device which visibly shows the beacon state when activated and that remains activated even in the absence of power.**" (Emphasis added.) In particular, note that claim 1 requires that the beacon device be an electromechanical device.

The above-recited limitation finds support on page 11, lines 26 through page 12, line 9 of the original specification, which recites as follows.

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, **an example electromechanical beacon device is depicted in FIGS. 6A, 6B, and 6C**. In this example, the electromechanical device comprises an electromechanical button or flag. Switches or other forms of electromechanical devices may also be used. FIG. 6A is a plan view (top view) of the example electromechanical device. FIG. 6B is a perspective view (side view) of the device with the electromechanical button or flag in the down (deactivated) position. FIG. 6C is a perspective view (side view) of the device with the electromechanical button or flag in the up (activated) position.

Such electromechanical devices are particularly advantageous in that they do not require the application of power to the device in order to stay in an activated or “turned on” state. For example, during repair, often times power is removed from the system chassis. With such an electromechanical beacon device, the “flag” may be “popped” (like a circuit breaker) when activated. It will remain in the popped position, whether or not power is applied, until it is reset by a repair person or other user.

(Emphasis added.)

An exemplary electromechanical beacon device is illustrated in FIGS. 6A, 6B and 6C. For convenience of reference, FIGS. 6B and 6C are reproduced below.



FIG. 6B
(Perspective View)
(Button Down)

FIG. 6C
(Perspective View)
(Button Up)

Olarig

As stated in the latest office action, Olarig does not teach a beacon device which “comprises an electromechanical device that remains activated even in the absence of power.” Applicants agrees with aforementioned conclusion.

As previously discussed in the response filed in March 2006, column 8, lines 17-27 of Olarig ‘680 discloses that “so long as the **register 68** records a fault condition, the module 55b contained in the connector 57 continues to be utilized even after power down.” (Empahsis added.) However, the register 68 is not an electromechanical beacon device because it is **neither electromechanical nor visible** to a repair person. Furthermore, the module 55b which “continues to be utilized” is the auxiliary memory module 55b (as shown in FIG. 1 of Olarig ‘680) which is also **neither electromechanical nor visible** to a repair person

Berney

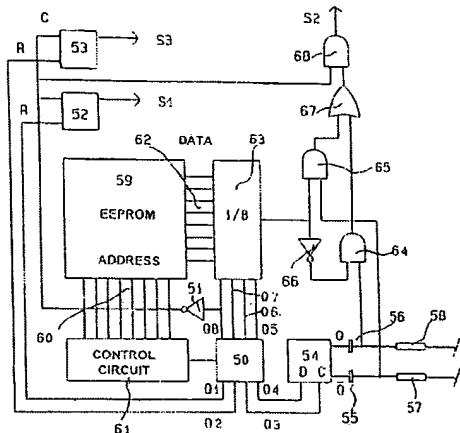
Regarding Berney, applicants respectfully submit that Berney also does not teach the limitation that “**the beacon device comprises an electromechanical device which visibly shows the beacon state when activated and that remains activated even in the absence of power.**” (Emphasis added.)

The office action cites to “column 29, lines 41-15” of Berney. However, Berney appears to end at column 10. Hence, applicants have surmised that the Examiner meant to cite to col. 7, lines 41-15 of Berney, which recites as follows.

... an electronic memory (59) able to maintain its state in the absence of a power supply, a control circuit (61) connected to the electronic memory (59), several electrooptical means (6, 8) arranged so as to detect input light signals (11) and deliver output light signals (37) ...

The electronic memory (59) in Berney corresponds to EEPROM (59) which is depicted in FIG. 5. For convenience of reference, FIG. 5 of Berney is reproduced below.

FIGURE 5



Applicants respectfully submit that the electronic memory (i.e. EEPROM) taught by Berney is an electronic device, but it is not an electromechanical device as recited in the claimed invention. In particular, there is no mechanical operating portion of the EEPROM taught by Berney.

Applicants further respectfully submit that the EEPROM taught by Berney does not have a “beacon state” which is visibly shown when activated per the claimed invention. In the absence of power, while an EEPROM may maintain state, its state is generally not visible to a user.

MacLaren

Regarding MacLaren, applicants respectfully submit that MacLaren also does not teach the limitation that “**the beacon device comprises an**

electromechanical device which visibly shows the beacon state when activated and that remains activated even in the absence of power.” (Emphasis added.)

As stated in the latest office action, “MacLaren discloses a system for detecting data errors in a memory device including a **light emitting diode (LED)** which visible shows a beacon state (illuminate and LED) when activated (paragraph [0056]).” (Emphasis added.)

Applicants respectfully submit that an **LED** is an electro-optical device, but an LED is not an **electromechanical device**. Further, applicants respectfully submit that **an LED does not remain activated even in the absence of power.**

Combination of Olarig, Berney, and MacLaren

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Olarig, nor Berney, nor MacLaren, nor the combination thereof, teaches the limitation of claim 1 where **“the beacon device comprises an electromechanical device which visibly shows the beacon state when activated and that remains activated even in the absence of power.”** (Emphasis added.)

Hence, for at least the above discussed reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is now patentably distinguished over the cited art.

Claims 4- 9 depend from claim 1. As such, claims 4-9 are patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1.

Regarding independent claim 10, claim 10, as previously presented, also requires that **“the beacon device comprises an electromechanical device which visibly shows the beacon state when activated and that remains activated even in the absence of power.”** (Emphasis added.)

For the same reasons as discussed above in relation to claim 1, applicants respectfully submit that neither Olarig, nor Berney, nor MacLaren, nor the combination thereof, teaches the limitation of claim 10 where “**the beacon device comprises an electromechanical device which visibly shows the beacon state when activated and that remains activated even in the absence of power.**”

Hence, for at least the above discussed reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is now patentably distinguished over the cited art.

Claims 13-26 depend from claim 10. As such, claims 13-26 are patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons discussed above in relation to claim 10.

Regarding independent claim 27, claim 27, as previously presented, requires that “**the beacon device comprises an electromechanical device that remains activated even in the absence of power.**” (Emphasis added.)

For the same reasons as discussed above in relation to claim 1, applicants respectfully submit that neither Olarig, nor Berney, nor MacLaren, nor the combination thereof, teaches the limitation of claim 27 where “the beacon device comprises an electromechanical device that remains activated even in the absence of power.”

Hence, for at least the above discussed reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claim 27 is now patentably distinguished over the cited art.

Conclusion

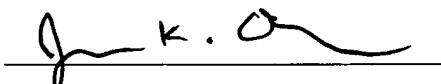
For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4-10, and 13-27, as previously presented, are now patentably distinguished over the cited art.

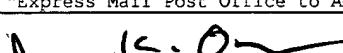
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 436-2111 for any questions.

If for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,
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